

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the Application of: )

GIROUARD et al. )

Serial No.: 10/635,930 )

Filing Date: August 7, 2003 )

Title: VEHICLE AND ADJUSTABLE  
STEERING SHAFT THEREFORE )

Group Art Unit: 3611

Examiner: Unknown

\* \* \* \* \*

November 17, 2003

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
Post Office Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Attached are six (6) PTO-1449 sheets listing forty (40) foreign references. Some of the foreign references are not written in English. While the undersigned does not read or understand Japanese, German or French, the undersigned provides the following statements of relevance based upon (1) abstracts of the references in English, or (2) the drawings in the references where English abstracts are not available:

- (1) JP 61-32196 illustrates the construction of what appears to be a three-wheeled vehicle with two front wheels and a single rear wheel.
- (2) JP 1-27910 illustrates what appears to be a three-wheeled vehicle that is designed to lean into turns.
- (3) JP 4-19072 illustrates what appears to be the frame construction for a three or four-wheeled vehicle.
- (4) JP 8-25501 illustrates the front suspension of a vehicle where the steering force is reduced by steering a front wheel via a first and second steering axis having a handle

bar on the upper end, which is rotatably supported in a nearly vertical direction with respect to a suitable part of a frame.

- (5) JP 7-81651 describes a two-wheeled vehicle where a body is arranged to sense a specific maneuvering motion by arranging a sub-frame in a main frame so as to swing freely. This enables a rider to sit on the sub-frame and to steer either one of a front wheel and a rear wheel. This is accomplished by an interlocking of the sub-frame through a swinging motion.
- (6) JP 5-43553 describes what appears to be a three-wheeled vehicle where touching of feet to the ground is facilitated while the rider is sitting on the seat. This is accomplished by a method wherein a foot touching space is formed at least near a side part of the foot rest surface.
- (7) JP 2864293 describes what appears to be a three-wheeled vehicle designed to corner smoothly by moving the car body inward in the cornering direction and inclining the car body at the time of steering. .
- (8) JP 63-25996 illustrates what appears to be the rear swing arm for a vehicle with two rear wheels.
- (9) JP 5-7236 describes what appears to be a three-wheeled vehicle where an occupied space for a muffler is reduced by positioning an exhaust silencer between an engine and a steering axle. The exhaust silencer acts a tail pipe so as to cause it to be opened beneath a seat. This design appears to be for a small vehicle consisting of two front wheels for steering and one rear wheel for driving. The wheels include low-pressure tires.
- (10) JP 6-455 describes a vehicle with enhanced turnability. The vehicle has at least a pair of left and right wheels arranged such that the vehicle automatically tilts toward the center of turn, in accordance with the steering operation of the vehicle, so that a control feeling similar to a motor-cycle may be obtained.

- (11) JP 2-27700 illustrates what appears to be a rear swing arm construction for a vehicle. The undersigned points out that the abstract provided for this reference does not appear to correspond to the drawings.
- (12) JP 4-16792 illustrates what appears to be a linkage construction for a rear swing arm of a vehicle. The undersigned points out that the abstract obtained for this reference does not appear to correspond to the drawings.
- (13) JP 59-114183 illustrates what appears to be a frame construction for a three-wheeled vehicle with two front wheels and a single rear wheel.
- (14) JP 59-149874 illustrates what appears to be a three-wheeled vehicle with two front wheels and a single rear wheel.
- (15) JP 59-149879 illustrates what appears to be a construction for a three-wheeled vehicle with two front wheels and a single rear wheel.
- (16) JP 61-178281 illustrates what appears to be a construction for a rear suspension for a vehicle, in particular a shock absorber for a rear wheel of a cycle car.
- (17) JP 61-169382 illustrates what appears to be a construction for a three-wheeled vehicle with two front wheels and a single rear wheel. The title of the reference indicates that the reference relates to a steering gear for a tricycle.
- (18) JP 63-38032 describes a three-wheeled vehicle with a construction effecting sufficient maneuverability and traveling properties of the vehicle when traveling on rugged ground by transmitting power to front wheels and to a rear wheel. The motorized three wheeler appears to have two front wheels and one rear wheel.
- (19) JP 1-229787 describes a three-wheeled vehicle with improved traveling stability. The support member of cross-arm support shafts, which are linked together via a longitudinal arm, are linked to a linking member, which is linked to a rear wheel suspension.
- (20) JP 2-254085 describes a three-wheeled vehicle with improved turning performance. Turning performance is improved by a method wherein the wheels on both sides of the vehicle are vertically rockably supported by means of link mechanisms (bank

arm) on both sides extending in the direction of the width of a car. The inner end part of the link mechanisms on both sides of the vehicle are supported by the car body through a cushioning device.

(21) JP 41-15969 illustrates what appears to be the construction of a three-wheeled vehicle with two front wheels and a single rear wheel.

(22) JP 5-43554 illustrates what appears to be the construction of a three-wheeled vehicle with two front wheels and a single rear wheel.

(23) DE 31 28 371 A1 illustrates a wheeled vehicle including a vehicle frame having at least one wheel at one end of the frame and a hinged parallelogram frame mounted on the other end of the vehicle frame. The frame has a pair of spaced wheels mounted on opposite sides thereof. The parallelogram frame pivots laterally in first or second opposite lateral directions when the frame leans laterally away from a position of equilibrium in the first or second lateral directions. A sensing device is connected to the vehicle frame and a power source is connected to the sensing means and parallelogram frame whereby initial leaning movement of the parallelogram frame in one direction (caused by conditions of unequilibrium) will cause the sensing device and power source to pivot the parallelogram frame in the opposite direction thereby to laterally pivot the vehicle frame to a position of equilibrium. The sensing device may be a lever pivotally connected to the vehicle frame and the power source may include a pair of extensible and retractable cylinder units for connecting opposite ends of the sensor lever to opposite sides of the parallelogram frame.

(24) JP 59-195421 illustrates a three-wheeled vehicle where fluctuations in the center of gravity due to change in an amount of fuel are suppressed. Thereby, characteristics of the vehicle are stabilized. A fuel tank is located at a position of the center of gravity of a vehicle or in the vicinity thereof. A fuel tank T is located on a reinforcing frame 3 for reinforcing a central portion of a main frame 1 and at a front seat Sf. The front seat Sf is arranged longitudinally near a rear seat Sr. Thus, the fuel tank T is arranged at a position of a center of gravity of a completed three-wheeled automotive vehicle

or in the vicinity thereof, and accordingly it is possible to eliminate fluctuation in the center of gravity of the vehicle due to change in an amount of fuel in the fuel tank T and thereby to stabilize characteristics of the vehicle.

- (25) JP 59-195477 illustrates a three-wheeled vehicle with an entirely miniaturized and lightweight chassis. The chassis for the tricycle is formed without impairing the characteristics of the vehicle, by making the intermediate section of the chassis wider than the front and rear sections thereof, and as well by providing foot rests in the left and right sides of the intermediate section. A floor plate 2 is laid on a main frame 1 composed of longitudinal beams 1a, 1a which are spaced from each other and extend from the front section to the rear section of a tricycle chassis. The mainframe 1 also includes cross-beams 1b, 1b. The longitudinal beams 1a, 1a in one pair are outwardly curved in their middle sections, and rectangular reinforcing frames 3 are connected to the longitudinal beams 1a, 1a inside of the curved sections. With this arrangement, the longitudinally intermediate section of the main frame 1 has a width which is larger than that of the front and rear sections thereof. In this wide intermediate section, left and right foot rest sections 17, 17 are provided between the longitudinal beams 1a, 1a and between the reinforcing frames 3. The floor plate 2 positioned in these foot rests 17, 17 is formed as a foot rest surface 2a.
- (26) JP 60-116572 illustrates a three-wheeled vehicle with one driving wheel in the rear. It is possible to facilitate handling of the vehicle by having established steering wheels at the right and left front of the vehicle. Two front wheels 35 are installed in lower part front of car body frame 10, 40, 42. A rear wheel 36 is also provided.
- (27) JP 59-29466 illustrates a three-wheeled vehicle where the tilting of the car body is returned to equilibrium state by means of an equilibrium state sensor and an actuator, and its controls.
- (28) JP 53-26044 illustrates a tricycle having two spaced front wheels and a single rear wheel connected to a frame structure. The front wheels are connected to the frame by a longitudinally extending shaft. A double wishbone suspension comprised of a pair

of upper arms and a pair of lower arms, connected by vertical links at their outer ends, join the front wheels to the frame and longitudinal shaft. The upper arms are pivotally connected to the frame while the lower arms are pivotally and separately connected to the longitudinal shaft by a shock absorbing cushion.

- (29) JP 58-3872 illustrates a motor bike with two front wheel 10 connected to frame 32 by a parallelogram-type wheel-centering assembly.
- (30) DE 1 063 473 describes a three-wheeled tricycle.
- (31) JP 61-113579 illustrates a motorized tricycle.
- (32) JP 61-11833 illustrates what appears to be a steering device for a motorized tricycle.
- (33) JP 53-26044 illustrates what appears to be a steering arrangement for a motorized tricycle.
- (34) The advertisement entitled "Wunder Wheels" appears to describe a kit to convert a snowmobile to a three-wheeled vehicle.
- (35) The article entitled "L'object du delire" from Option Moto, dated September, 2002 describes a three-wheeled vehicle made by adding two front wheels to a Yamaha® V-max® motorcycle.

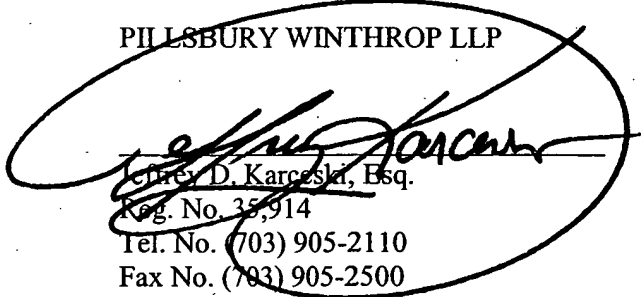
This IDS is intended to be in full compliance with the rules, but should the Examiner find any part of its required content to have been omitted, prompt notice to that effect is earnestly solicited, along with additional time under Rule 97(f), to enable Applicant to comply fully.

Should a first action on the merits have been issued on the same day or before this Information Disclosure Statement is filed, please accept this Information Disclosure Statement under Rule 97(c) and charge the requisite Rule 17(p) fee to our Deposit Account No. 03-3975, under Order No. 086171/0305449 and proceed to consider this Information Disclosure Statement.

Consideration of the foregoing and enclosures plus the return of a copy of the enclosed PTO-1449 Form, page 1, with the Examiner's initials in the left column per MPEP 609 are earnestly solicited along with an early action on the merits.

Respectfully submitted,

PILLSBURY WINTHROP LLP



Jeffrey D. Karceski, Esq.  
Reg. No. 35,914  
Tel. No. (703) 905-2110  
Fax No. (703) 905-2500

JDK/smw  
Post Office Box 10500  
McLean, VA 22102  
(703) 905-2000



Dkt. No.

305449

RP-01207-US3

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**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

| Examiner's<br>Initials* | Document<br>Number | Date<br>MM/YYYY | Name<br>(Family Name of First Inventor) | Class | Sub<br>Class | Filing<br>Date<br>(if appropriate) |
|-------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|---|-------|--------------|------------------------------------|
|                         | AR                 |                 |   |       |              |                                    |
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**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

|  |     | Document<br>Number | Date<br>MM/YYYY | Country | Inventor Name   | English<br>Abstract |    | Translation<br>Readily<br>Available |    |
|--|-----|--------------------|-----------------|---------|-----------------|---------------------|----|-------------------------------------|----|
|  |     |                    |                 |         |                 | Enclosed            | No | Enclose                             | No |
|  | FR  | 61-32196           | 03/1980         | Japan   | Satou           |                     | x  |                                     |    |
|  | GR  | 1-27910            | 04/1983         | Japan   | Satou et al.    |                     | x  |                                     |    |
|  | HR  | 4-19072            | 04/1986         | Japan   | Mizuta          |                     | x  |                                     |    |
|  | IR  | 8-25501            | 08/1989         | Japan   | Kurokawa et al. | x                   |    |                                     |    |
|  | JR  | 7-81651            | 03/1995         | Japan   | Oda et al.      | x                   |    |                                     |    |
|  | KR  | 5-43553            | 04/1984         | Japan   | Aoi             | x                   |    |                                     |    |
|  | LR  | 2864293            | 08/1992         | Japan   | Fujita          | x                   |    |                                     |    |
|  | MR  | 63-25996           | 10/1983         | Japan   | Handa           |                     | x  |                                     |    |
|  | NR  | 5-7236             | 06/1985         | Japan   | Kanamori        | x                   |    |                                     |    |
|  | OR  | 6-455              | 10/1986         | Japan   | Fujita et al.   | x                   |    |                                     |    |
|  | PR  | 2-27700            | 02/1987         | Japan   |                 |                     | x  |                                     |    |
|  | QR  | 4-16792            | 02/1987         | Japan   |                 |                     | x  |                                     |    |
|  | RR  | 59-114183          | 07/1984         | Japan   | Murakami        |                     | x  |                                     |    |
|  | SR  | 59-149874          | 08/1984         | Japan   | Urano           |                     | x  |                                     |    |
|  | TR  | 59-149879          | 08/1984         | Japan   | Urano           |                     | x  |                                     |    |
|  | UR  | 61-178281          | 08/1986         | Japan   | Ikeda           |                     | x  |                                     |    |
|  | VR  | 61-169382          | 07/1986         | Japan   | Kawamoto        |                     | x  |                                     |    |
|  | WR  | 63-38032           | 02/1988         | Japan   | Tsutsumigoshi   | x                   |    |                                     |    |
|  | XR  | 1-229787           | 09/1989         | Japan   | Masuhara        | x                   |    |                                     |    |
|  | YR  | 2-254085           | 10/1990         | Japan   | Ichida          | x                   |    |                                     |    |
|  | ZR  | 41-15969           | 09/1966         | Japan   |                 |                     | x  |                                     |    |
|  | AAR | 5-43554            | 04/1984         | Japan   | Aoi             |                     | x  |                                     |    |

**OTHER:** (Including in this order: Author, Title, Periodical Name, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

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Examiner

Date Considered:

\*EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP § 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.





Atty.  
Dkt. No.

M#

Client Ref.

305449

RP-01207-US3

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Examiner: Unknown

Group Art Unit: 3611

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

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|                         | IIR                |                 |   |       |              |                                    |

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|--|--------------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------------|----|-------------------------------------|----|
|  |                    |                 |               |                 | Enclosed            | No | Enclose                             | No |
|  | JJR 2 180 202 A    | 03/1987         | Great Britain | Rohan           |                     |    |                                     |    |
|  | KKR 2 142 591 A    | 01/1985         | Great Britain | Hart et al.     |                     |    |                                     |    |
|  | LLR 2 134 860 A    | 08/1984         | Great Britain | McCormick       |                     |    |                                     |    |
|  | MMR 2 111 442 A    | 07/1983         | Great Britain | McCaw           |                     |    |                                     |    |
|  | NNR 2 045 705 A    | 11/1980         | Great Britain | Yamamoto et al. |                     |    |                                     |    |
|  | OOR 1 070 658 A1   | 01/2001         | Europe        | Cossalter       |                     |    |                                     |    |
|  | PPR 31 28 371 A1   | 09/1982         | Germany       | Townsend        | x                   |    |                                     |    |
|  | QQR 59-195421      | 11/1984         | Japan         | Komuro          | x                   |    |                                     |    |
|  | RRR 59-195477      | 11/1984         | Japan         | Komuro          | x                   |    |                                     |    |
|  | SSR 2 093 417 A    | 09/1982         | Great Britain | Badsey          |                     |    |                                     |    |
|  | TTR 60-116572      | 06/1985         | Japan         | Kanamori        | x                   |    |                                     |    |
|  | UUR 59-29466       | 07/1984         | Japan         | Rei Seodoa      | x                   |    |                                     |    |
|  | VVR 53-26044       | 03/1978         | Japan         | Sato et al.     | x                   |    |                                     |    |
|  | WW 58-3872         | 01/1983         | Japan         | Uorufugangu     | x                   |    |                                     |    |
|  | XXR 1 063 473      | 08/1959         | Germany       | Trautwein       |                     | x  |                                     |    |
|  | YYR 61-113579      | 05/1986         | Japan         | Miyakoshi       |                     | x  |                                     |    |
|  | ZZR 61-11833       | 04/1986         | Japan         |                 |                     | x  |                                     |    |
|  | AAA 53-26044       | 03/1978         | Japan         |                 |                     | x  |                                     |    |

## OTHER (Including in this order: Author, Title, Periodical Name, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

|     |   |  |  |  |
|-----|---|--|--|--|
| BBB | www.nevco.com/index2.html, 2 pages (last updated: January, 2003)            |  |  |  |
| CCC | World of Motion, Walt Disney World Epcot Center, The Lean Machine (undated) |  |  |  |
| DDD |   |  |  |  |

Examiner

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| EEE                     |                    |                 |   |       |              |                                    |
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|--------------------|-----------------|---------|---------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|
| GGG                |                 |         |               | Enclosed            | No                                  |
| HHH                |                 |         |               | Enclosed            | No                                  |

**OTHER (including in this order Author, Title, Periodical Name, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)**

|      |  |
|------|--|
| IIIR | http://www.ftconnect.com/nmtryke/concept.html (printed June , 1999)                          |
| JJJR | http://www.ftconnect.com/nmtryke/parts.html (printed June, 1999)                             |
| KKK  | http://www.artcenter.edu (printed November, 2002)  |
| LLL  | http://www.artcenter.edu/gallery/trans/img10.html (printed March, 2000)                      |
| MMM  | http://www.artcenter.edu/gallery/trans/img09.html (printed March, 2000)                      |
| NNN  | http://www.vmax.co.uk/ (printed October, 2002)   |
| OOO  | http://www.vmax.co.uk/gallery/axis.htm (printed November, 2002)                              |
| PPP  | http://www.sunagor.com/scorpion/grinnall_member.htm (printed January, 2000)                  |
| QQQ  | http://www.sunagor.com/scorpion/Mike-2.jpg (printed January, 2000)                           |
| RRR  | http://www.sunagor.com/scorpion/grinnall_mark.htm (printed January, 2000)                    |
| SSS  | "DirtWheels" Magazine, December, 1985 Issue, p. 56, 60, 61                                   |
| TTT  | http://www.snowmobilenews.com/output.cfm?id=122635 (printed November, 2002)                  |
| UUU  | http://www3.sympatico.ca/pierre.pellerin/page51.html (printed September, 2002)               |
| VVV  | http://www.motorcyclenews.com/home (printed November, 2002)                                  |
| WWW  | http://www.motorcyclenews.com/NEWS/NEWS.asp?page=Earlier+.../00&id=595& index= (April, 2000) |
| XXX  | http://www.motorcyclenews.com/NEWS/news.asp?page=Latest+News (printed February, 2000)        |
| YYY  | http://www.ftconnect.com/mtryke/ride.html (printed June, 1999)                               |
| ZZZ  | Vectrix Corporation and Italjet, Electric Scoop Project (undated)                            |
| AAA  | Electric & Hybrid Vehicle Technology International, Annual Review (2002)                     |
| BBB  | Wunder Wheels (undated)  |
| CCC  | Minitta 50 Portfolio (undated)   |
| DDD  | Roundup Cycle World (January 1998)   |
| EEE  | ATV Sport, (November 2001), pg. 11   |
| FFF  | Grinnal Scorpion (Undated)   |
| GGG  | Yamaha 1200 V-Max, Option Motor, (September, 2002)   |

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|  | JJJJ |                    |                 |         |               |  |          |    |                      |    |
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**OTHER (including in this order Author, Title, Periodical Name, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)**

|      |  |  |  |  |
|------|--|--|--|--|
| LLLL | http://www.ctv.es/USERS/softech/motos/Trike/BMW_C1.jpg (printed September, 2002)     |  |  |  |
| MMM  | http://www.rqriley.com/images/p32-nwl.jpg (printed September, 2002)                  |  |  |  |
| NNN  | http://www.chinajuli.com/ehtm/zsanlun.htm (printed September, 2002)                  |  |  |  |
| OOO  | http://www.rqriley.com/slalom.html (printed September, 2002)                         |  |  |  |
| PPP  | http://www.rqriley.com/design.html (printed September, 2002)                         |  |  |  |
| QQQ  | http://www.rqriley.com/images/gm-lm2.jpg (printed September, 2002)                   |  |  |  |
| RRR  | http://www.rqriley.com/3-wheel.html (printed September, 2002)                        |  |  |  |
| SSS  | http://www.rqriley.com/images/f300-combo.jpg (printed September, 2002)               |  |  |  |
| TTT  | http://www.geocities.com/MotorCity/Downs/9323/f300.htm (last updated: January, 2000) |  |  |  |
| UUU  | http://www.morgan3w.de/general/rightframe.htm (last updated: August, 2002)           |  |  |  |
| VVV  | http://freespace.virgin.net/gary.wedge/main.htm (last updated: December, 1999)       |  |  |  |
| WWW  | http://www.gme.usherb.ca/cyclonex.jpg (printed September, 2002)                      |  |  |  |
| XXX  | http://www.gme.usherb.ca/cyclone/photos1.html (printed September, 2002)              |  |  |  |
| YYY  | http://www.go-t-rex.com (undated)  |  |  |  |
| ZZZ  | http://www.go-t-rex.com/tr/in/pourindex_02.jpg (undated)                             |  |  |  |
| AAA  | http://www.corbin.com/corbinmotors/merlinroadster.shtml (printed September, 2002)    |  |  |  |
| BBB  | http://www.corbinmotors.com/ (printed September, 2002)                               |  |  |  |
| CCC  | http://www.messerschmitt.co.uk/main.htm (printed September, 2002)                    |  |  |  |
| DDD  | Magazine, "Cycle World," February, 2003, pg. 30                                      |  |  |  |
| EEE  |  |  |  |  |
| FFF  |  |  |  |  |
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